



SENATOR  
**BILL HARDIMAN**

***E-Hardiman Herald***



*Chair, Families & Human  
Services Committee  
Appropriations Committee:  
Chair, Family Independence  
Agency, Commerce Labor  
& Economic Development,  
Capitol Outlay,  
Higher Education*

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## **NINE-POINT JOB PLAN**

House and Senate Republicans this week unveiled an unprecedented proposal to provide more job opportunities for Michigan residents. The proposal would help create manufacturing jobs, spur new small businesses, and provide incentives to expand the state's slow-moving economy. The nine-point plan marks the first time Republicans in both chambers of the Legislature have united to push a common agenda. House and Senate leaders said the proposal tops their fall legislative agenda. The stimulus plan includes an initiative to revitalize Michigan's floundering tool & die industry, which has been especially hard hit with job losses and overseas competition.

The main component of this package is the creation of Tool & Die Recovery Zones, which would provide tax relief similar to a Renaissance Zone. The other main proposal is a tax incentive for new businesses. Under this proposal, small start-up businesses would be exempt from most taxes in their first two years of operation. They would then have their tax liabilities phased in over the following four years.

## **PENALTIES FOR POSSESSING, RELEASING, NON-NATIVE FISH**

The Michigan Senate passed legislation this week banning the possession and release of transgenic and non-native fish in Michigan waters. Senate Bills 214 and 215, and 226-229 address the issue of genetically engineered and foreign fish species, and their devastating effects on Michigan's waterways. In addition to damaging the natural fish ecosystems in this state, non-native fish carry exotic diseases and parasites that could disrupt and impair fish communities.

Violators could face felony charges punishable by five years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine.

The legislation now goes to the House of Representatives.

## **PROTECTING SCHOOLS FROM LOST MEAP SCORES**

Legislation protecting students and schools from being penalized if their Michigan Educational Assessment Program answer sheets are lost by the Michigan Department of Education or a state contractor was recommended by a Senate committee this week. Under SB 787, schools could not

be unfairly designated as unaccredited or not maintaining federal adequate yearly progress as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act because of missing results. This legislation is in response to the more than 3,000 answer sheets that were lost this year.

## **METHAMPHETAMINE PRODUCERS FACING TOUGHER PENALTIES**

Fines and penalties in Michigan will increase for people who participate in the production of methamphetamine under a package of seven bills passed and approved by the Senate. Methamphetamine (Meth) is a growing concern throughout Michigan with clandestine labs being found in such places as barns, garages, motels, apartments, storage areas and vehicles. The production of methamphetamine can cause serious environmental and safety risks. Since the toxic waste produced is often dumped in public sewer systems or directly on the ground. Mishandling of the chemicals used in methamphetamine production also and can result in fires or explosions which injure or kill law enforcement and fire personnel who respond to the scene of a meth lab. The legislation is aimed at stopping the possession and transportation of excessive amounts of methamphetamine ingredients in order to stop meth from being produced cut off the supply of this highly addictive and dangerous drug.

## **TASK FORCE PRESENTS FINDINGS ON MICHIGAN'S RECYCLING**

Earlier this week, the Michigan Beverage Container and Recycling Task Force presented their final report to the Senate and the public. The 64-page document culminates the nearly 10 months of work performed by the Task Force and their recommendations. The Task Force made more than 40 legislative proposals, aimed at increasing Michigan's recycling rate. Currently, the state's recycling rate is at 20 percent.

## **SENATE REPUBLICANS PUT MICHIGAN CONSUMERS FIRST**

Senate Republicans announced this week that protecting Michigan consumers from the rapidly growing crime of identity theft will be a top priority during the fall legislative session. Senators said Michigan consumers need to be confident in knowing criminals aren't out there charging up thousands of dollars on their credit cards. Much of what they have started work on will serve as a model for other states. Caucus members have introduced a package of bills aimed at making it easier for identity-theft victims to restore their good credit histories as well as giving prosecutors and police the tools to nab ID thieves. Before introducing the package, lawmakers heard firsthand how identity theft has ruined victims' credit ratings and created havoc in their lives.

## **SENATE OK'S FIRE SAFETY BILLS**

The Michigan Senate this week unanimously passed the Fire Safety First Package, a set of bills requiring the installation of smoke alarms in multiple-unit dwellings and historical buildings. The legislation came about after Flagstar Bank officials presented a 2001 study to lawmakers showing 148 people died in fires in the statewide. Bank officials requested the introduction of legislation complimenting their smoke detector initiatives. In 2002, the number of fire fatalities

rose to 167. More than three-quarters of residential fatalities involved homes with no smoke alarm or one that was not working. The package now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration. Bank officials requested the introduction of legislation complementing their smoke detector initiatives.

## **NOVEMBER DECLARED MICHIGAN VENISON MONTH**

The Michigan Legislature has declared November Michigan Venison Month in recognition of the important role venison plays in Michigan's economy and culture. The celebration coincides with Michigan's firearm deer season, which begins Nov. 15 and runs through the end of the month. Each autumn, more than 700,000 hunters spend more than 10 million combined days in the field attempting to tag a deer and fill their freezers with venison. Michigan hunters were successful in harvesting more than 476,000 deer during the 2002 hunting seasons. In addition, Michigan has approximately 735 privately owned deer and elk farms across the state, with more than 28,000 head of livestock. This ranks the state near the top for privately owned deer and elk herds in the United States.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

The Hardiman Herald by Senator Bill Hardiman is designed to provide residents and organizations with a timely update of his activity in Lansing. If you have any questions or do not wish to receive this e-mail, please contact Senator Hardiman's office.

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